



HOLYOKE

Hampden County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

The City of Holyoke is located by the Connecticut River where the first of several dams was constructed in 1848 to take advantage of a 57-foot drop in the river level. The water power created by the dam was transferred to new industrial sites along 7.5 miles of hand dug canals. At one point, more than 25 paper mills were in operation in Holyoke, annually producing the greatest tonnage of paper of any city in the world. Although only one company continues to manufacture paper, the dam, canals and much of the industrial and commercial architecture remain intact. Owing to the city's excellent location at the junction of Routes I-90 and I-91, the reuse of many buildings has proved to be economically feasible.

The game of volleyball was invented in 1895 by William G. Morgan at the Holyoke YMCA and the city is rightly claimed to be the "Birthplace of Volleyball". Recreational attractions include the Volleyball Hall of Fame, the Wistariahurst Museum and the Children's Museum, and Holyoke Heritage State Park where the former Mt. Park Merry-Go-Round is permanently housed.

The State Park also hosts "Celebrate Holyoke", an annual three-day event which brings visitors from around the region to enjoy nationally known performers. Residents feel Holyoke is rightfully described as "The Best City by a Dam Site." (Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Western Massachusetts in the Connecticut River Valley. Bordered by West Springfield on the south; Westfield, Southampton, and Easthampton on the west; and separated from South Hadley and Chicopee by the Connecticut River on the east. Holyoke is 90 miles west of Boston; 34 miles north of Hartford, Connecticut; and 142 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 22.82 sq. miles

Land Area: 21.29 sq. miles

Population: 43,704

Density: 2,053 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Springfield Station)

Normal temperature in January.....26.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....74.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.9"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Mount Tom, Mt. Holyoke, Springfield North, Easthampton

Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 534-2166

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Mayor-Council

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1850

As a city: 1873

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number	%
--------	---

Total Registered 19,880

Democrats 9,890 49.7 % Republicans 1,663 8.4 % Other parties 10 0.1 % Unenrolled Voters 8,317 41.8 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Holyoke city, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	39,838	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	39,838	100.0
Male.....	18,664	46.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	16,485	41.4
Female.....	21,174	53.2	Mexican.....	85	0.2
Under 5 years.....	3,156	7.9	Puerto Rican.....	14,539	36.5
5 to 9 years.....	3,319	8.3	Cuban.....	58	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	3,393	8.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	1,803	4.5
15 to 19 years.....	2,995	7.5	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	23,353	58.6
20 to 24 years.....	2,443	6.1	White alone.....	21,508	54.0
25 to 34 years.....	5,188	13.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	5,505	13.8	Total population.....	39,838	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	4,567	11.5	In households.....	38,457	96.5
55 to 59 years.....	1,707	4.3	Householder.....	14,967	37.6
60 to 64 years.....	1,364	3.4	Spouse.....	5,464	13.7
65 to 74 years.....	2,673	6.7	Child.....	13,300	33.4
75 to 84 years.....	2,390	6.0	Own child under 18 years.....	10,253	25.7
85 years and over.....	1,138	2.9	Other relatives.....	2,346	5.9
Median age (years).....	34.0	(X)	Under 18 years.....	1,031	2.6
18 years and over.....	28,098	70.5	Nonrelatives.....	2,380	6.0
Male.....	12,598	31.6	Unmarried partner.....	1,165	2.9
Female.....	15,500	38.9	In group quarters.....	1,381	3.5
21 years and over.....	26,472	66.4	Institutionalized population.....	1,188	3.0
62 years and over.....	6,979	17.5	Noninstitutionalized population.....	193	0.5
65 years and over.....	6,201	15.6	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	2,373	6.0	Total households.....	14,967	100.0
Female.....	3,828	9.6	Family households (families).....	9,478	63.3
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	4,979	33.3
One race.....	38,717	97.2	Married-couple family.....	5,464	36.5
White.....	26,197	65.8	With own children under 18 years.....	2,361	15.8
Black or African American.....	1,476	3.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	3,313	22.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	151	0.4	With own children under 18 years.....	2,280	15.2
Asian.....	324	0.8	Nonfamily households.....	5,489	36.7
Asian Indian.....	83	0.2	Householder living alone.....	4,631	30.9
Chinese.....	64	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	2,020	13.5
Filipino.....	30	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	5,523	36.9
Japanese.....	7	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	4,045	27.0
Korean.....	25	0.1	Average household size.....	2.57	(X)
Vietnamese.....	14	-	Average family size.....	3.23	(X)
Other Asian ¹	101	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	48	0.1	Total housing units.....	16,210	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	5	-	Occupied housing units.....	14,967	92.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	7	-	Vacant housing units.....	1,243	7.7
Samoa.....	6	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	30	0.1	occasional use.....	30	0.2
Some other race.....	10,521	26.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.9	(X)
Two or more races.....	1,121	2.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	6.9	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	14,967	100.0
White.....	27,088	68.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	6,205	41.5
Black or African American.....	1,828	4.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	8,762	58.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	304	0.8	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.66	(X)
Asian.....	399	1.0	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.50	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	95	0.2			
Some other race.....	11,304	28.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	337
Conventional Federal:	822

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	169
Federal (Section 8):	799



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Holyoke is located in the Pioneer Valley, known as the crossroads of New England because of its strategic position along the Connecticut River and its excellent transportation facilities. The Massachusetts Turnpike connects the region to Boston and to Albany, New York. Interstate 91 provides direct access to Hartford, Connecticut, and to Brattleboro and points north in Vermont.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 5 and Interstate Route 91 going N-S, and the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90) running E-W. Interchange No. 4 is located almost on the southern border of Holyoke.

Rail

Amtrak passenger rail service is available from nearby Springfield. The Pioneer Valley Railroad (PVRR) and the Springfield Terminal Railway (STRR) provide freight service and interchange traffic in Holyoke. The PVRR operates a warehouse and distribution facility in the city. Contact numbers: PVRR (413) 568-3331; STRR (508) 663-1073.

Bus

Holyoke is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), which provides fixed route service within Holyoke as well as to Chicopee, Springfield, South Hadley, and other neighboring towns. The PVTA also offers paratransit services to the elderly and disabled. The Peter Pan Bus Lines provides commuter service to Boston via Springfield.

Other

Barnes Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility in neighboring Westfield, is easily accessible. It has a 5,000' x 100' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

Children's Museum at Holyoke
444 Dwight Street
(413) 536-5437
Wistariahurst Museum
238 Cabot Street
(413) 534-2216

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Holyoke Hospital
Providence Hospital
Soldiers Home - Holyoke

Long Term Care

Buckley Nursing + Retir Home
Chapel Hill Nursing Home
Holyoke Geriatric + Conv. Ctr
Holyoke Nursing Home
Loomis House Nursing Center
Mont Marie Health Care Center Inc.
Mount Saint Vincent Nursing Home
New Medico Rsnc @ Brook Wood
Summerfield Oak Manor N.H.

Hospices

Hospice Life Care

Rest Homes

Beaven Kelly Rest Home
Rehabilitation Clinic

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.